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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

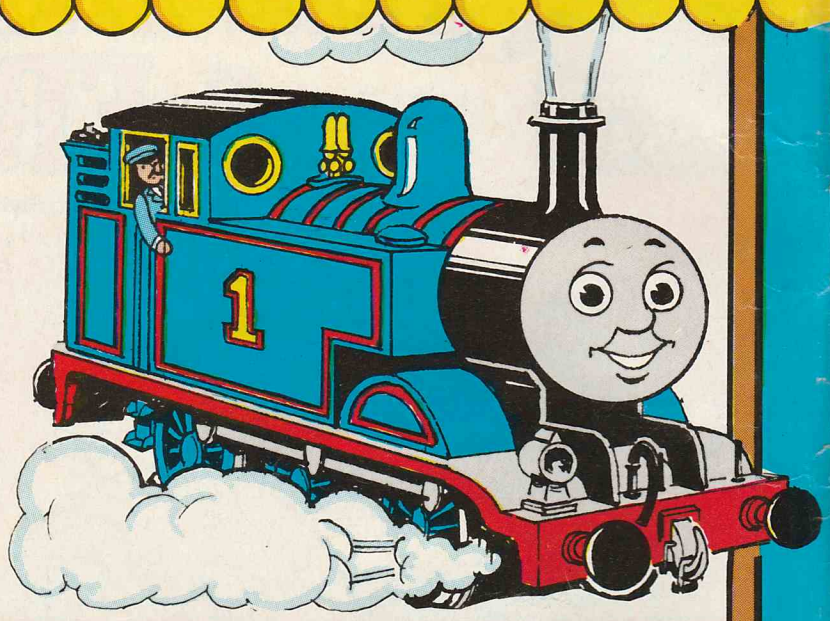
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

Splish! Splosh! What a mess!

ISSN 0954-9390

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! In our first story, Edward the blue engine is woken up in the middle of the night by strange, tapping noises! Whatever can it be? Then, in our second story, a very sleepy passenger accidentally falls asleep inside Clarabel – and stays there all night! Peep! Peep!



EVERY ISSUE!

By taking out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends,** every issue will be sent straight to your home for a full year! You will also receive a splendid membership card making you an automatic member of the **Thomas Club!** More details are on page 7!

MEMBERSHIP ONLY!

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STEPNEY, FRIEND OF THOMAS WEEKEND!

A special weekend full of fun and excitement with **Stepney** and some of **Thomas the Tank Engine's** other friends is to be held on the **7th** and **8th April** at the *Bluebell Railway, near Uckfield in Sussex.* This splendid and worthwhile event will include train rides, competitions and games, children's indoor party entertainment, model railways and lots more. There's also a chance to ride on the footplate of one of the engines, plus receive a splendid **Thomas gift** from an Easter bunny! All the money raised from this event will go to the **Guy's Evelina Hospital 'Sponsor a Cot Appeal',** to save the lives of critically ill children. So, why not come along and see some of your favourite engines and at the same time help contribute to a very worthy cause?!

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

In our next issue: Bill and Ben find a runaway horse!

THOMAS TOKEN

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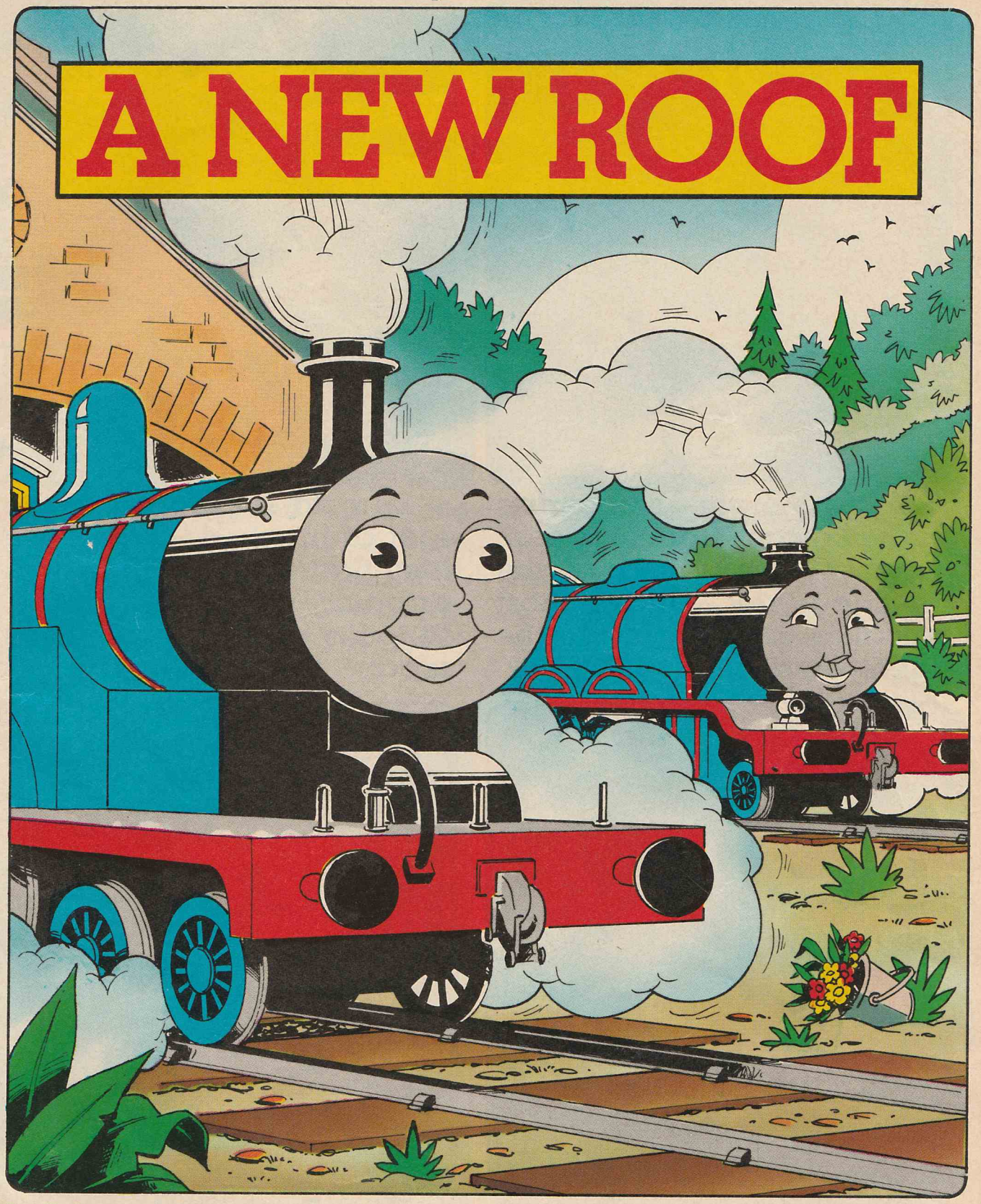
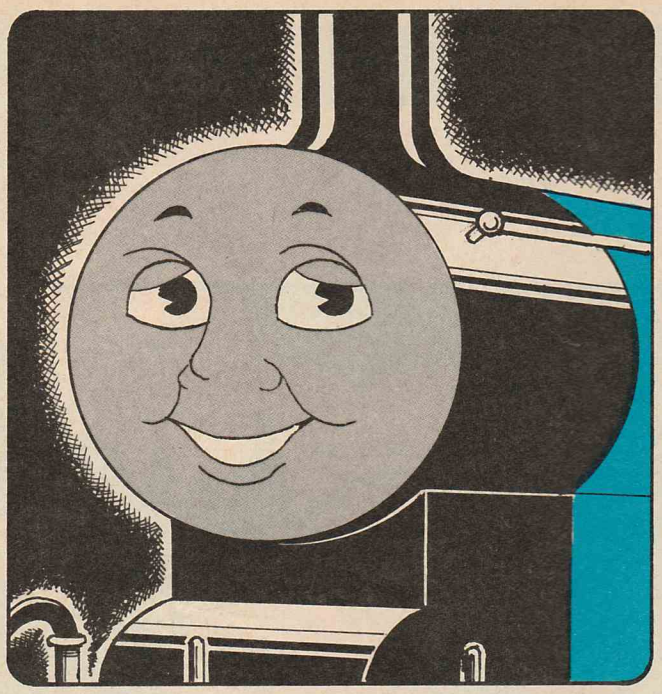
ABC

A listen and look story!

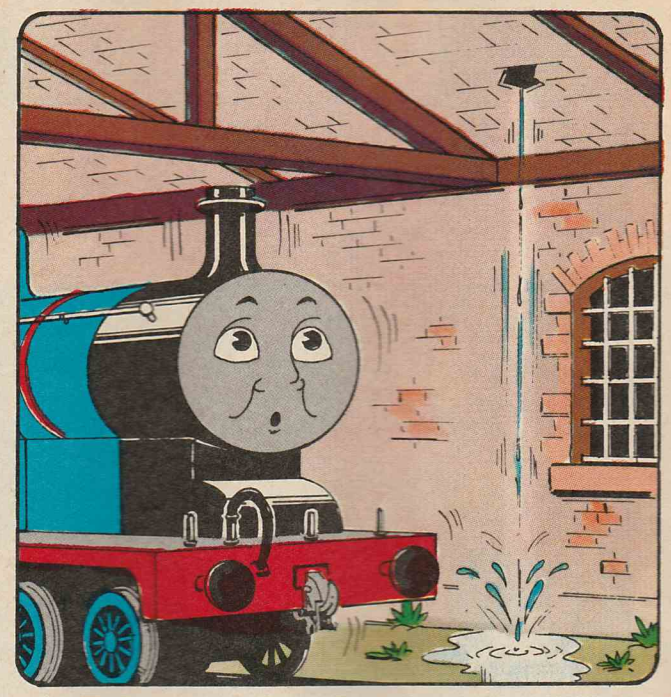


1. Edward is a kind engine. He works on both the branch line and the main line. The Fat Controller can always rely on Edward if there's something that needs doing.

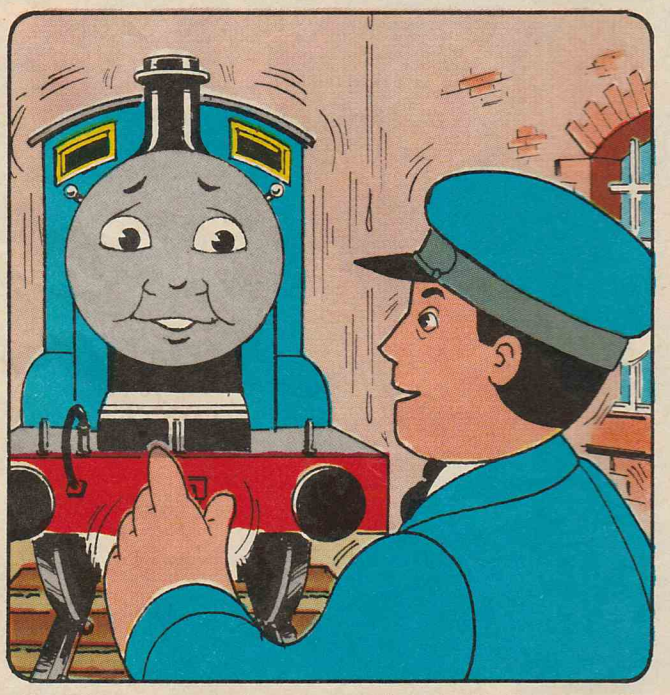
2. Edward lives in a little shed on a siding which everyone knows as Edward's station. Edward always whistles a friendly hello to whoever passes by.



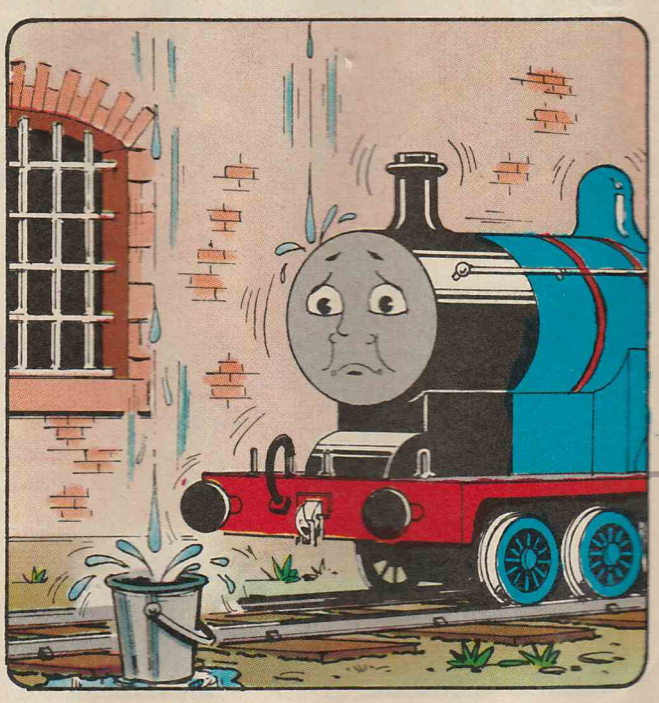
3. One night something woke Edward from his sleep. It wasn't the sound of the rain outside, but a most peculiar tapping inside the shed. Whatever could it be?



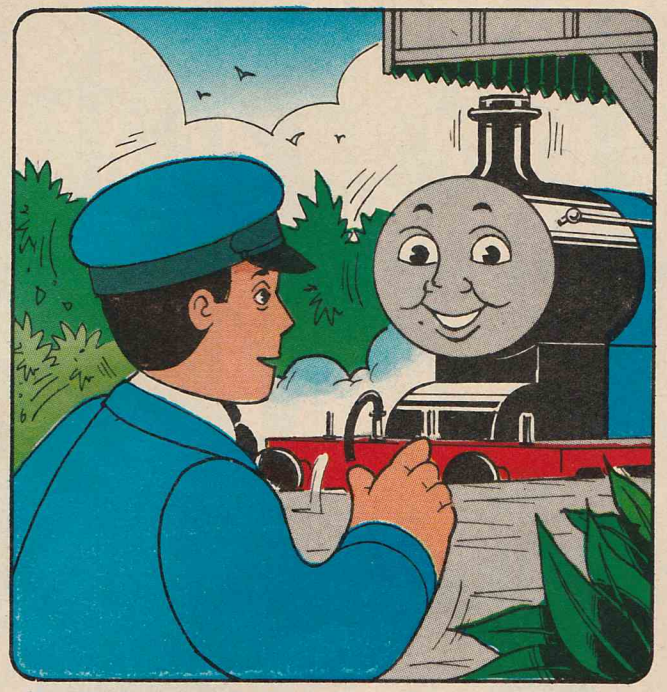
4. Edward looked up at the roof of his shed. One of the tiles had slipped. Rain was dripping in through a hole. "It looks as if my roof needs repair," thought Edward.



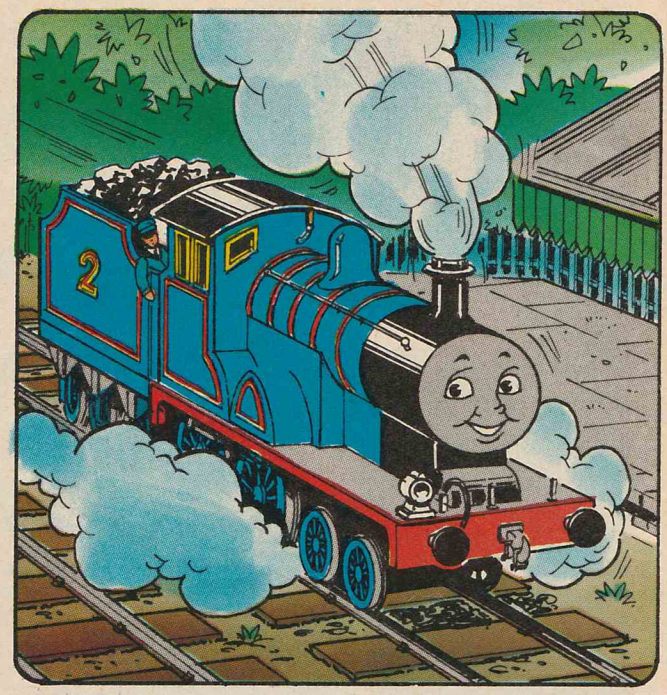
5. The next morning Edward told the stationmaster. He came in to the shed to look. "It doesn't need roof repairs," he said. "But I **can** give you a bucket."



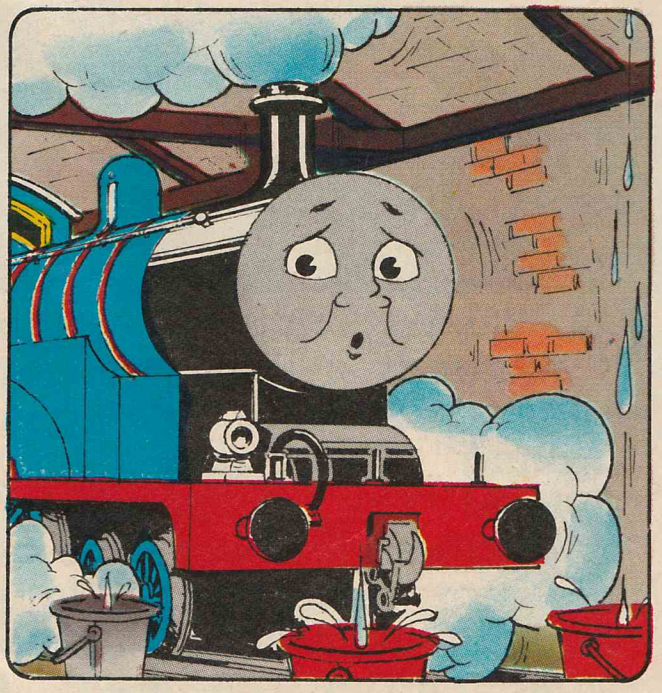
6. Drip! Drip! Drip! went the water in the bucket every time it rained. Edward did become used to it, but soon there was another sound as well. Drip! Drop! Drip! Drop!



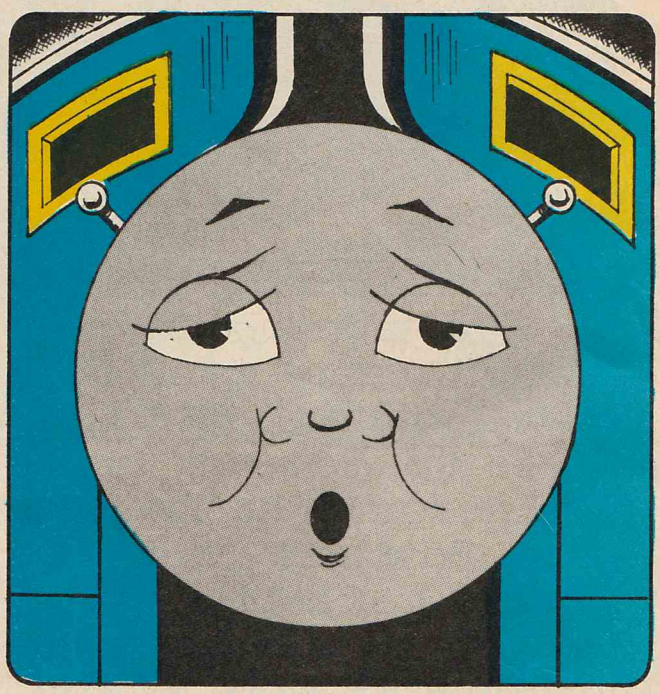
7. Edward looked up at his roof once again. The next morning he told the stationmaster about the new leak. "He'll have to mend it now," he thought.



8. That evening Edward was hopeful as he went back home. The stationmaster was not around as Edward came past the station. He went straight into his shed.



9. "Another bucket!" Edward exclaimed. He was very disappointed. Drip! Drop! Drip! Drop! went the rain, soon more holes appeared too! It was like a concert of drips!



10. For every new hole, the stationmaster brought Edward another bucket. What a noise they made! Edward was hardly able to sleep at all!

11. Next morning Edward's fireman came in. It had been raining all night. "Wake up, Edward!" called his fireman as he shovelled into Edward's fire. But Edward just kept on sleeping. Edward's driver came in. "Time for work, Edward! Wake up!" he called. But Edward didn't wake up. He was just too exhausted!

12. It was late, and the stationmaster was getting worried. He came running in calling. "What's going on?" **Splosh!** The stationmaster had fallen right over one of his own buckets and into another! That very day the stationmaster organised 3 workmen to repair Edward's roof. Now he can sleep peacefully all night.

THE END

In our next issue: Bill, Ben and the horse!

SUBSCRIPTION PAGE!

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Boco in a

One day, the Fat Controller brought Boco to the station to work with Diesel, shunting coaches.

"We're very short of engines today, so you must help us out, Boco," said the Fat Controller. "I've told Diesel to show you what to do."

Diesel smiled slyly. He intended to play a dirty trick on Boco.

"You have to move all the

jam

coaches onto the line that leads into the engine sheds," he told Boco. "I can't help you because I have to shunt trucks."

"That's all right," said Boco. "I shall be able to manage by myself."

Boco worked hard all morning, shunting coaches until they were lined up outside the sheds.

When Henry and James returned from their journeys, they were very angry.

"You silly engine!" said Henry, crossly. "The coaches are blocking our shed entrances."

The Fat Controller was cross too. "You have caused an obstruction," he told Boco sternly.

Poor Boco had to remove the coaches. Diesel thought it was very amusing.

"Come on, Diesel," said his driver. "We have a guard's van to shunt onto Edward's line. He's taking a crate to the village store."

"A crate of what?" asked. Diesel sneakily, but his driver didn't know.

Jam

Diesel wanted to know what was in the crate. So as he shunted the van, he gave it a hard bump, hoping to hear something rattling inside.

"I can't hear anything," he muttered crossly.

Boco knew what was inside the van. And it gave him a chance to pay Diesel back.

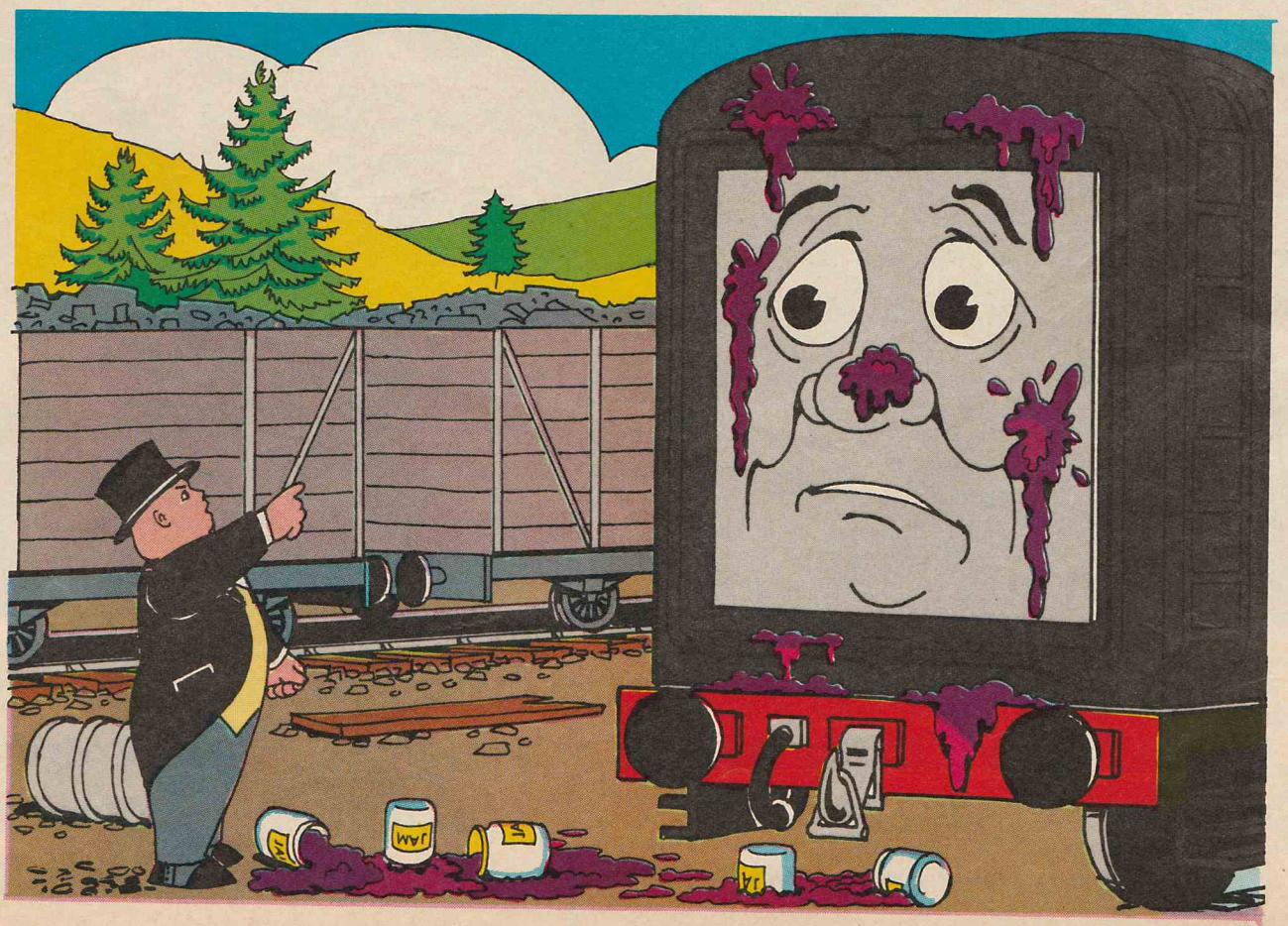
"Why not push harder?" he suggested. "You might hear something then."

Diesel did push harder. In fact, he gave the van a very sharp bump!

Crraaassssh! The guard's van was jolted along the tracks and toppled over. The door slipped open and dozens of jars of sticky jam fell out and broke, splashing all over Diesel.

The Fat Controller was very angry. He sent Diesel to his shed for the rest of the day.

"Now who's in a jam?" laughed Boco. **THE END**



By the spri

What colour is the engine in the distance?

Do you think that it is Donald or Douglas?

What is he pulling?

Find three tiny caterpillars!

Which flower c

Point to a busy

How many she

Point to the flo

ng flowers!

ver do you like best?

ousy bee!

sheep are in the distant field?

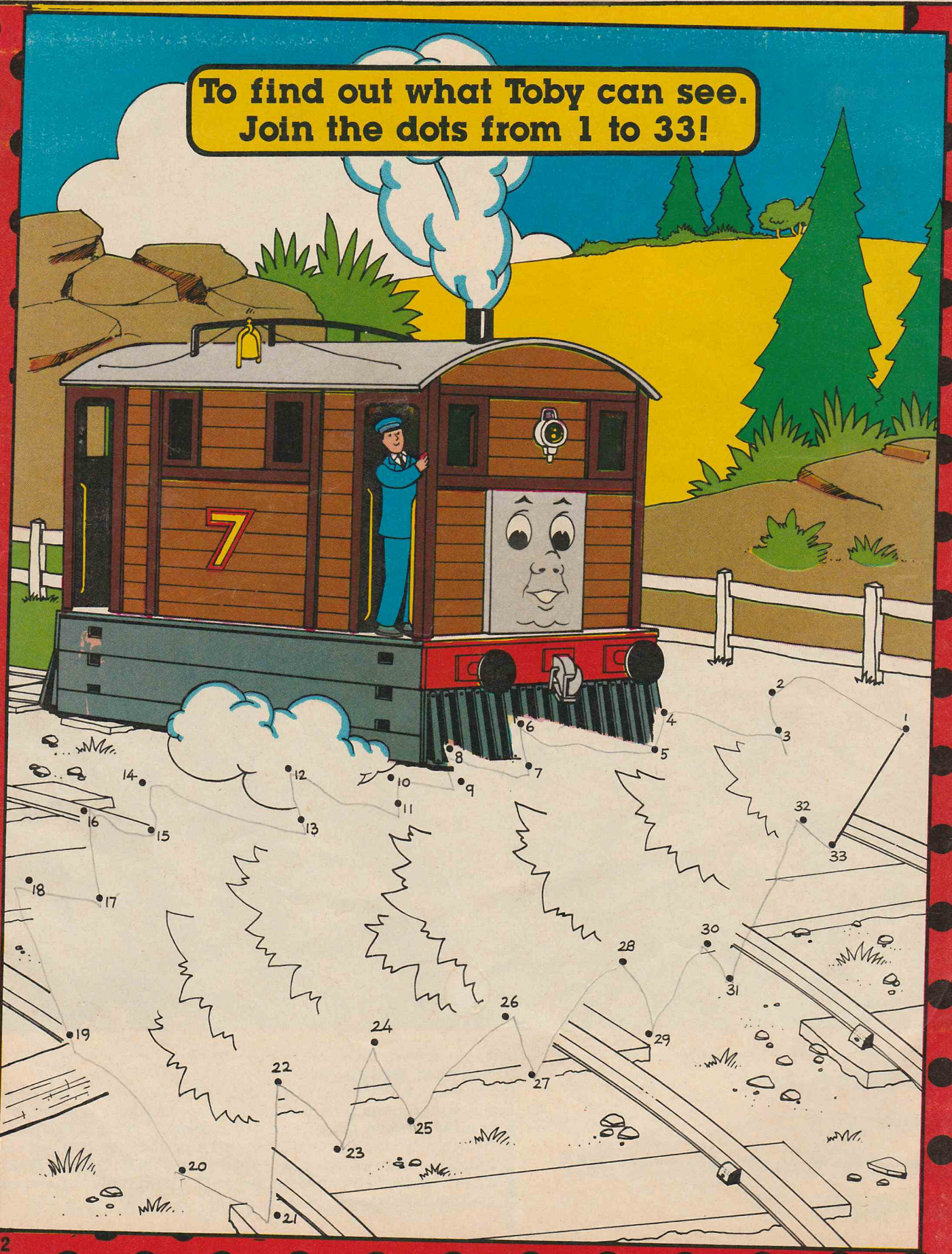
e flower buds!

Note for parents

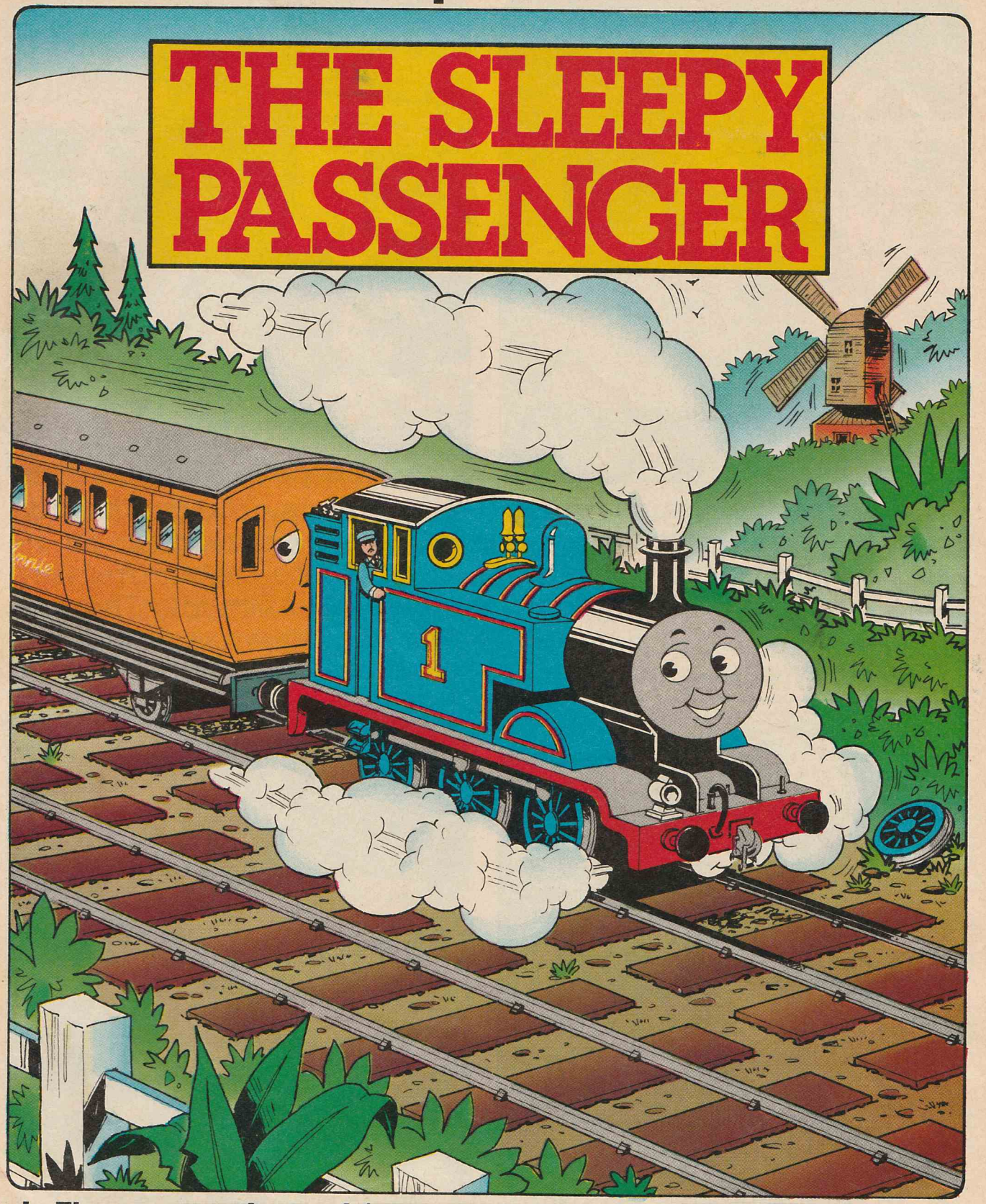
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Stop for water!

JOIN THE DOTS!

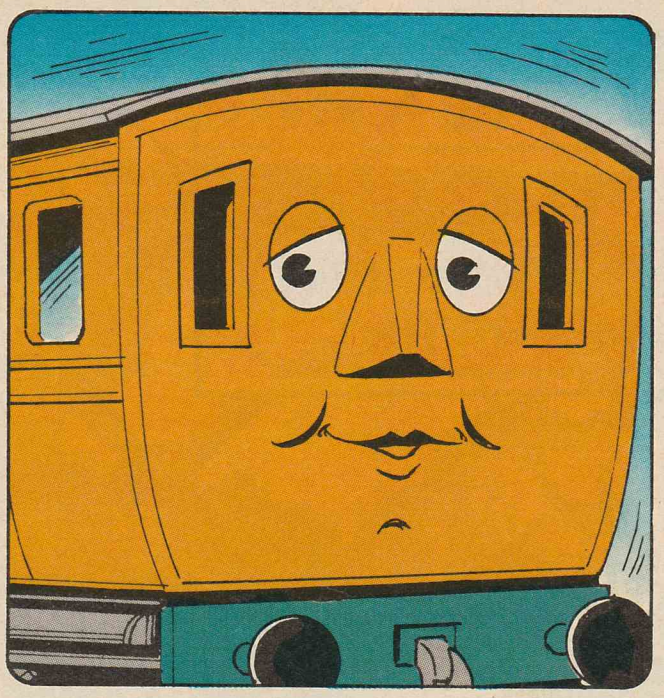


A listen and look story!



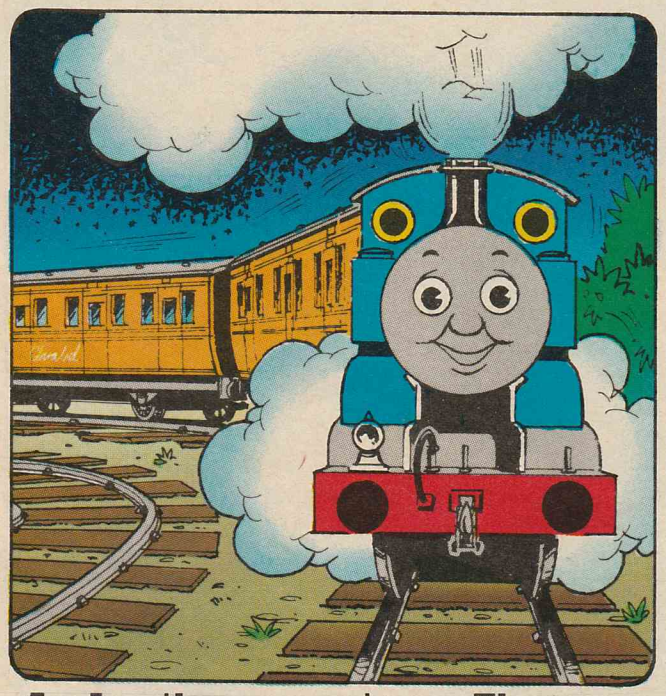
1. Thomas works on his own branch line on the Island of Sodor. He is very proud of this and he enjoys looking after his passengers. Thomas never likes to be late.

2. Thomas has two coaches, Annie and Clarabel, for his passengers to ride in. They are jolly comfortable and the passengers all like them very much indeed.

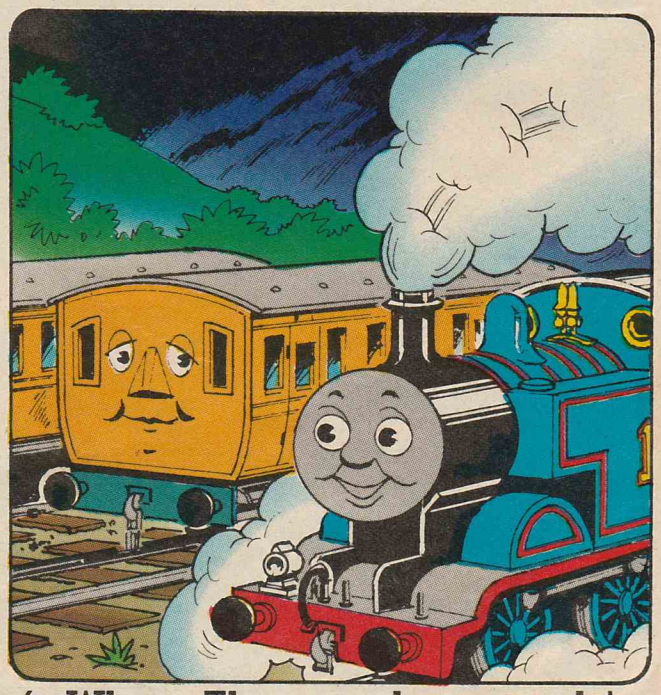


3. One of the things which makes Annie and Clarabel so popular is the way they sing as they rattle along. "Beautiful day! Beautiful day!" they often sing.

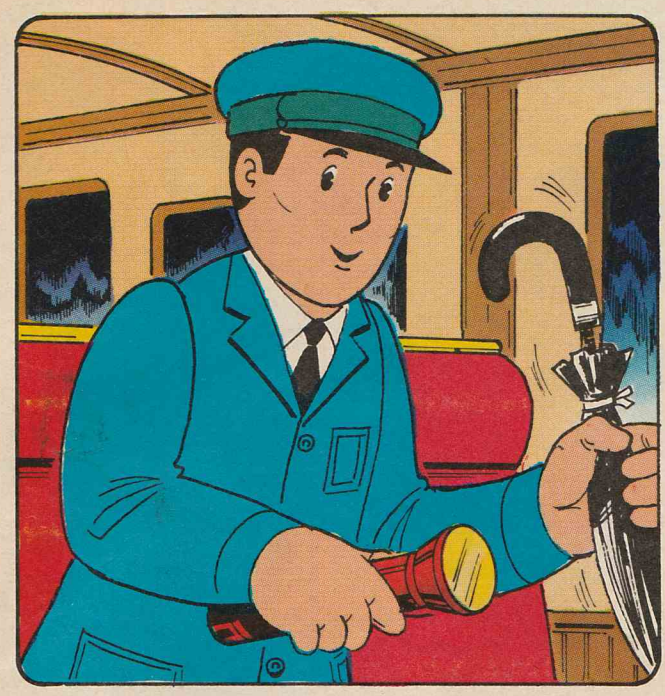
4. In the morning, Thomas takes his passengers off to work. These trains are very crowded. After this Thomas runs regularly up and down his branch line all day.



5. In the evening, Thomas brings his passengers back home from work again. So Thomas is kept very busy. Sometimes Thomas's last train runs when it is dark.

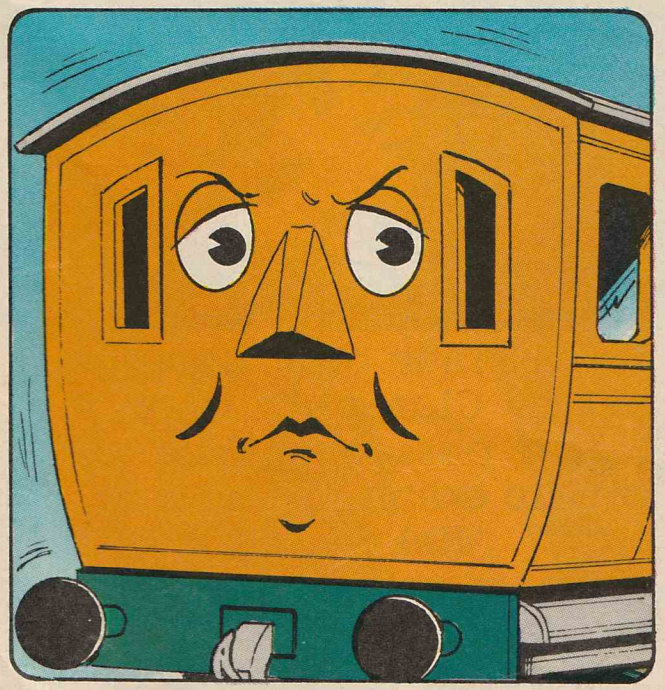


6. When Thomas has run his last train, he takes Annie and Clarabel to their siding. Then the guard looks through the two coaches before he says goodnight.

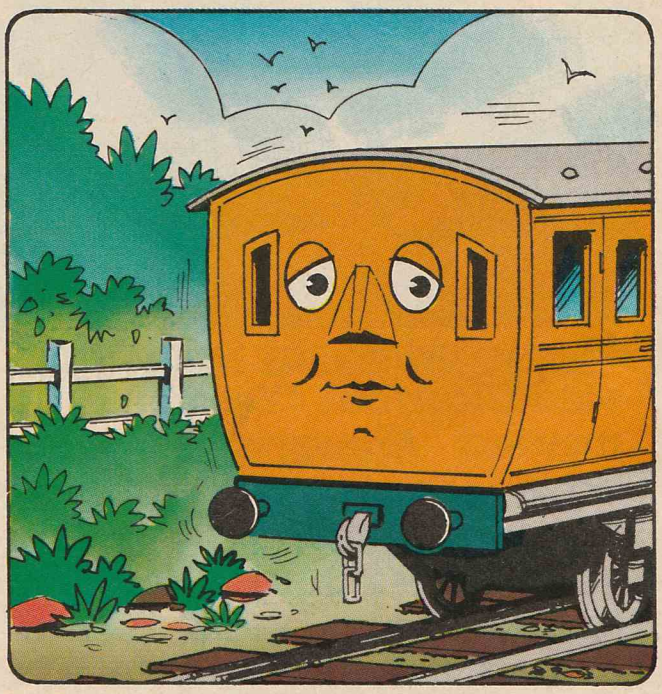


7. Sometimes there is a bag or a case which someone has left behind. Quite often it's a forgotten umbrella. These things must be taken to the left luggage office.

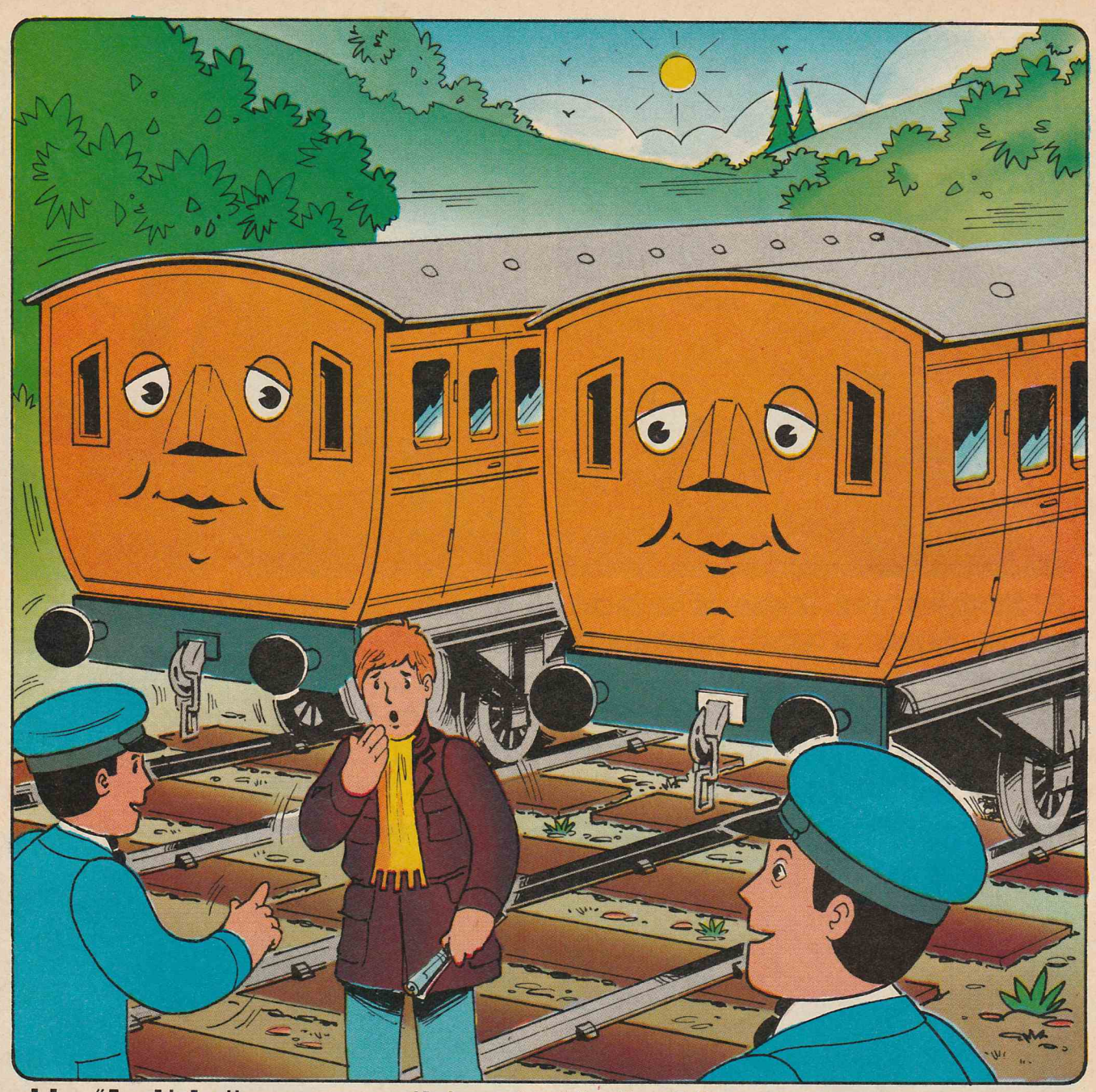
8. One evening, the guard was in a particular hurry. Perhaps he had something special for his late night tea. He checked the coaches rather too quickly.



9. That night Annie had some trouble getting to sleep. "That's funny," she thought. "In all these years I've never known Clarabel to snore before!"



10. At last Annie fell asleep, but she was woken up very early the next morning. "What's going on?" "What do you mean?" asked Annie. "I'm trying to get to sleep!"



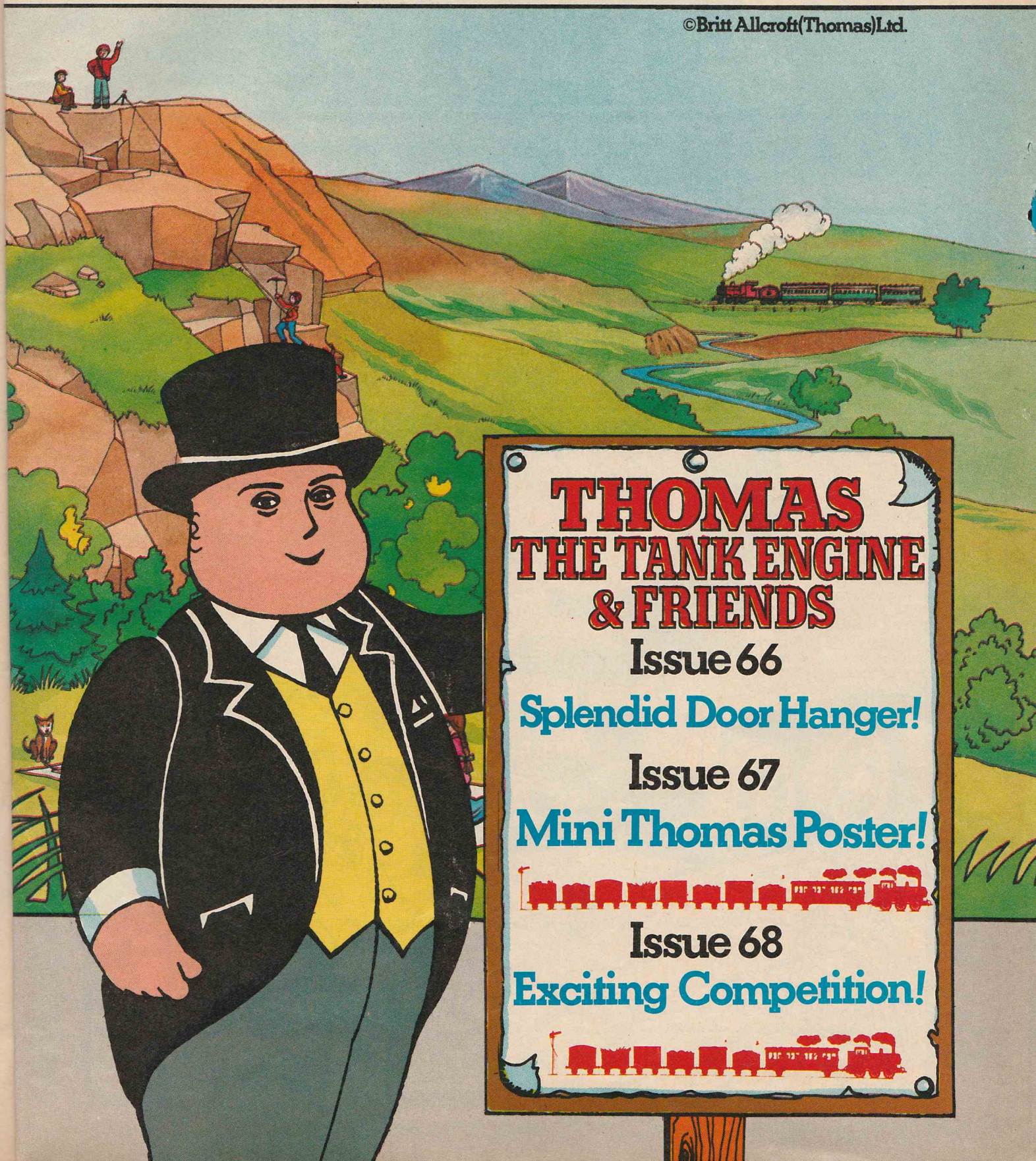
11. "I didn't say anything," said Clarabel. "Yes you did," insisted Annie. "You must have been dreaming." "Where am I?" "You're on your usual siding, Clarabel!" huffed Annie. "Really! Whatever is the matter with you this morning?!" The noise soon brought the stationmaster over. "What's all the noise about?" he asked.

12. Just then a man stepped out of Clarabel's door. He was a passenger, but what was he doing in Clarabel so early? "Hello," smiled the stationmaster. "It looks as if you fell asleep on the train. The guard must have overlooked you!" Annie and Clarabel couldn't help laughing at the poor sleepy passenger. **THE END**

In our next issue: Trouble in the woods!

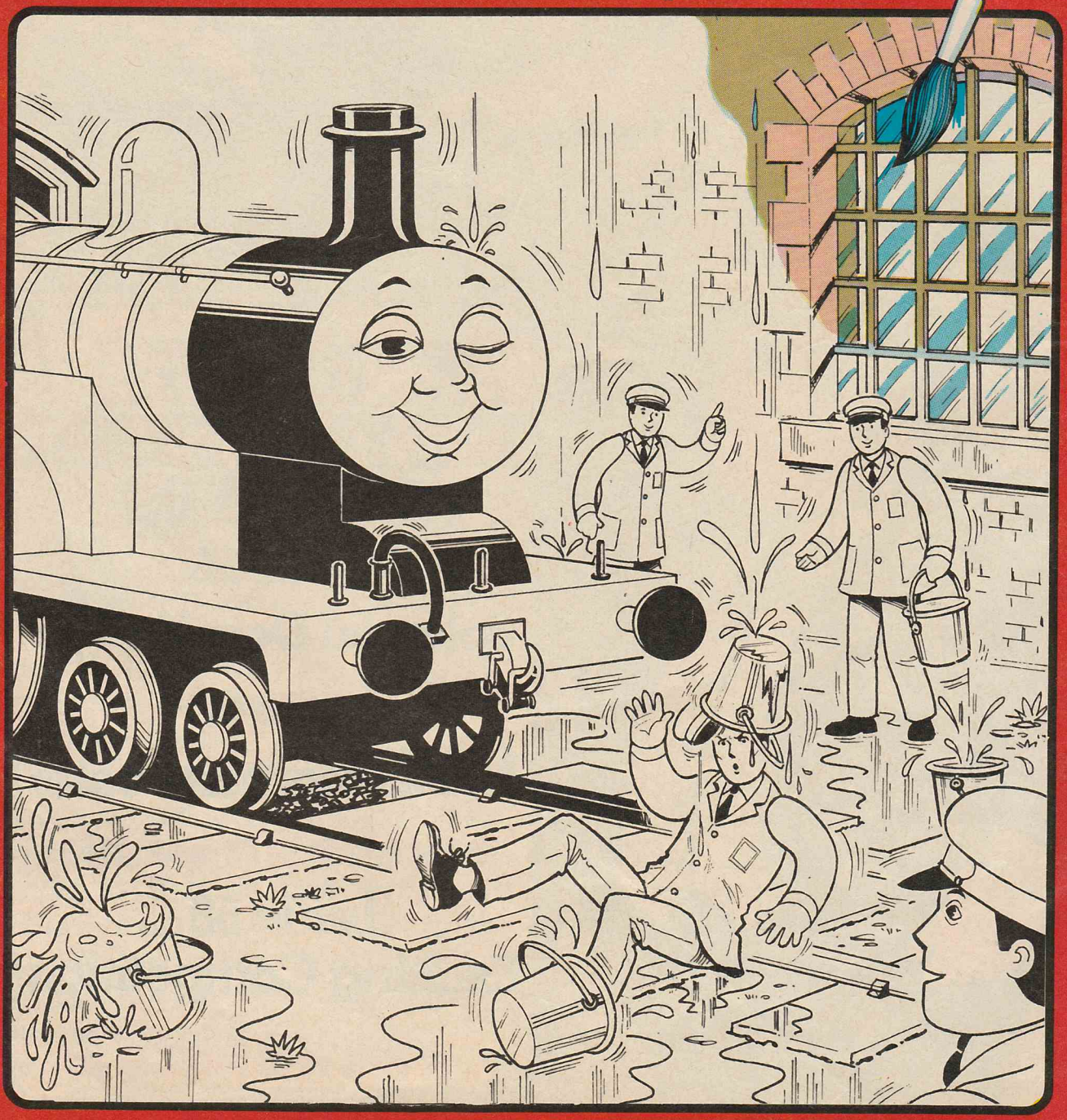
LOOK WHAT'S PUFFING YOUR WAY...

©Britt Allcroft(Thomas)Ltd.

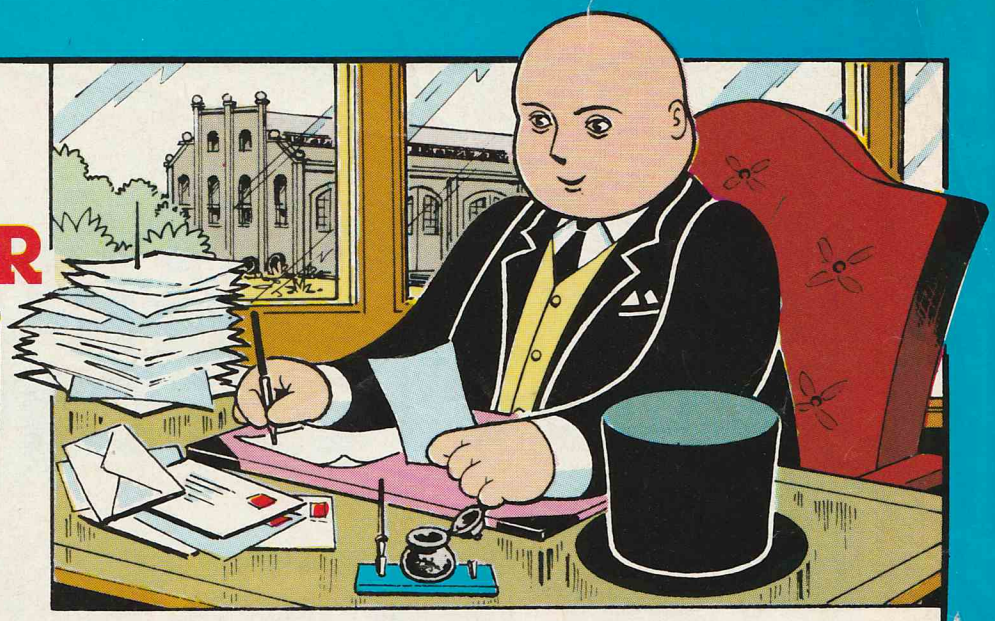


COLOURING TIME!

What is happening? Can you guess?
Colour in this watery mess!



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
The other day, I was talking to my Grandad about steam engines. He told me that 'in the age of steam', he used to drive steam engines too! But these days he drives an Inter City 125 train! We both love **Thomas the Tank Engine** and his friends. Grandad thinks that steam is the best. So do I!
Love from **John,** aged 4.
(Mem. no. 18421).

Well, well . . . I must admit that I wholeheartedly agree with you both!

★★★★★★★★★

John wins a splendid Thomas the Tank remote control engine from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

MY THOMAS BED!

Dear Fat Controller,
I am writing to tell you about my Thomas bed. My brother Philip still sleeps in a cot, so he is jealous! He sometimes gets out of his cot and climbs into my Thomas bed, but Mummy always puts him back again! My Thomas bed is really great!
Love from **Michael,** aged 3.

Upon my soul . . . your brother Philip sounds as if he is a very keen Thomas fan indeed!

SPLENDID RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
Last Christmas, Santa brought me a **Thomas the Tank Engine** train set which Daddy and I love playing with. My one year old sister also likes playing, but she keeps sitting on the track and disturbing the engines. I wish that you were here to keep an eye on her!
Love from **Christopher,**
aged 3.

Gracious me . . . she does sound very playful indeed. I am sure she will stop sitting on your track in time, though!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

William Wraxall, Paul James Smith (3405), Daniel James Waters (9639), Graham Hall (29896), Colin Dodd, Gemma Boileau (6024), Jonathon Lee (33046), John Sutcliffe, Gary Smith (27454), Eric Thompson (28066), Wayne Dreval (29565), Stefanos Stavrinakis (19239), Peter Scott, Simon Richards (23289), Jason Bird (31402), Daniel Stone (9494), Andrew John Roth (21423), Christopher MacKainchie (1648), Andrew Peters (31708), Carl Woodward (28695), Adam Pells, Jonathon Butcher, Robert Wiltshire, Steven Thomas Comeria (25738), Alexandra Wilkinson, Carl Stubbins, Aaron Hogan (30269), Daniel Lancaster, Ian Bettles (7606), Christopher Richard Moles, John George Lee, Victoria Robinson, Jonathon Gwynne (15103), Philip Gwynne, James Hunter (29542), James Overy (19208) and Simon Rogers.

If you'd like a mention here, just send details on a **postcard** please, at least 9 weeks in advance!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

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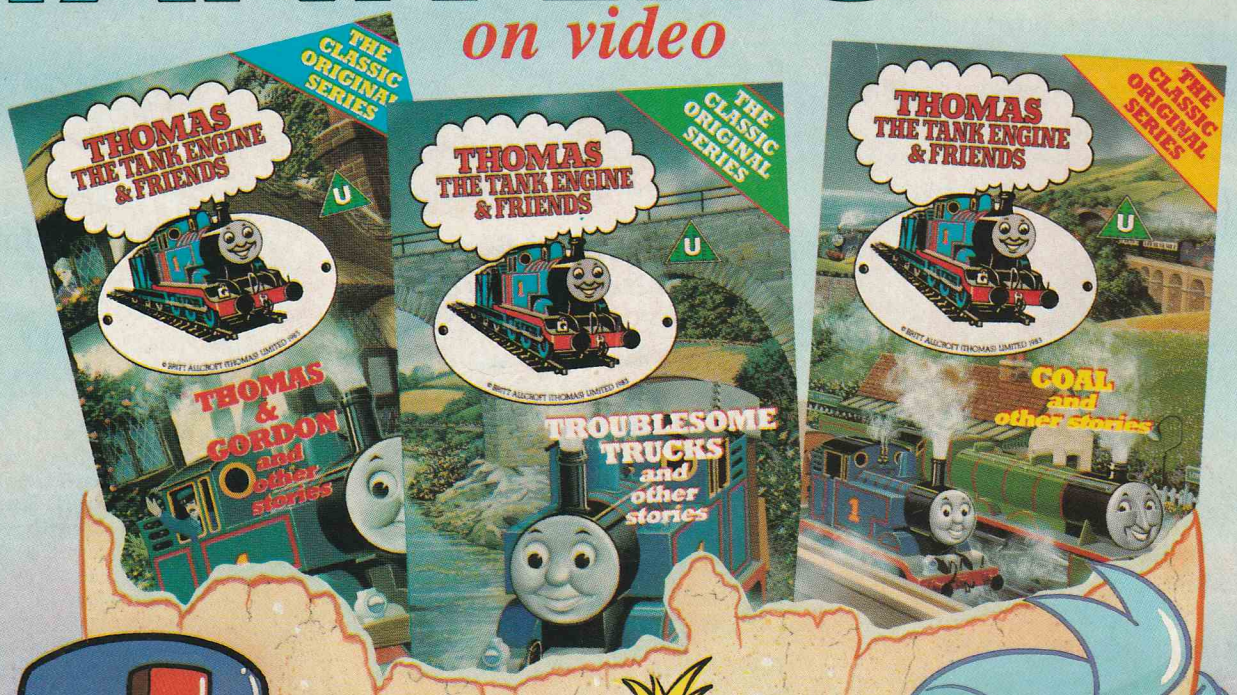

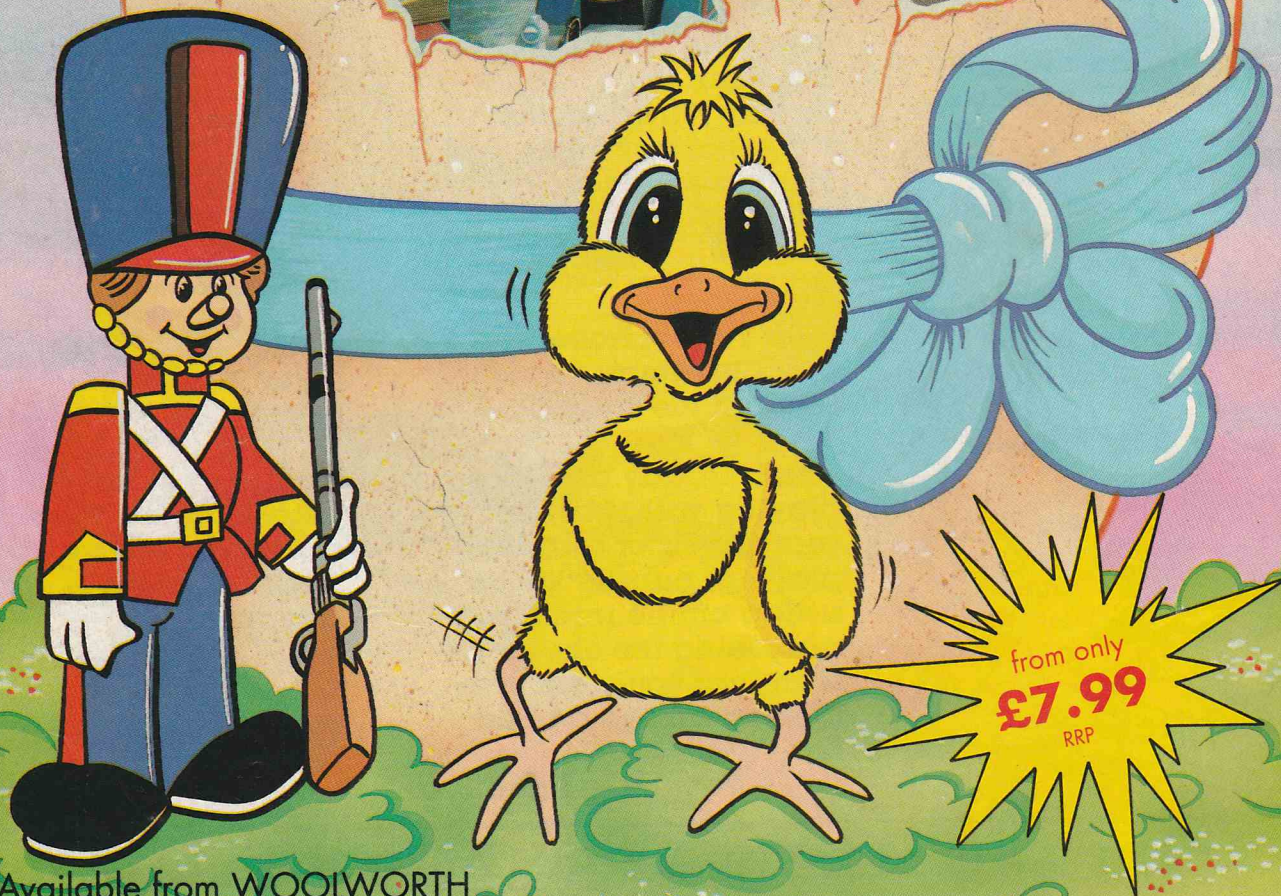

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